United Nations A/55/286

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 27 of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you arrange for the distribution as a document of the General Assembly, under item 27 of the provisional agenda, of the decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session, held at Lomé from 6 to 8 July 2000 (annex I), and the declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held at Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000 (annex II).**

(*Signed*) Leslie Kojo **Christian**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for the month of August

* A/55/150 and Corr.1 and 2.
** The annexes are being circulated in the languages of submission only.

00-61089 (E) 031000

Annexes to the letter dated 3 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Annex I

Decisions and regulation adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second ordinary session and seventh ordinary session of the African Economic Community

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CM/Dec.517 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION (CM/2154 (LXXII))

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **COMMENDS** all Member States which are up-to date in the settlement of their financial obligations to the OAU Regular Budget, as follows: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tunisia;

3. **APPEALS** to those Member States in arrears to take all the necessary measures to settle their arrears in order to enable the Organization to meet the new challenges.

CM/Dec.518 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS CM/2155 (LXXII)

Council :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;

2. **REITERATES ITS APPRECIATION** for the excellent work of the Committee in its sensitization campaign towards Member States in arrears with a view to reminding the latter of their financial obligations to the Organisation;

3. **ENDORSES** all the recommendations of the Committee as contained in paragraph 21 of Doc CM/2155(LXXII) and requests the Secretary General to ensure that they are fully implemented;

4. **REITERATES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN** at the non-compliance by some Member States with the rescheduling plans submitted by them for clearing their arrears;

5. **FURTHER REITERATES** its earlier position that any Member State failing to honour its initial rescheduling plan will automatically fall under sanctions. in keeping with Council Decision CM/Dec.437(LXXI) as well as the provisions of Art. 115 of the Financial Rules and Regulations;

6. **DIRECTS** the General Secretariat to update on regular basis the list of all countries under sanctions and to have it circulated during all statutory meetings of the Organisation;

7. **FURTHER DIRECTS** that countries under sanctions should not be included in the membership of the Bureau of the OAU Commissions/Committees.

CM/Dec.519 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT - (CM/2162 (LXXII))

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General contained in document CM/2162 (LXXII);

2. **COMMENDS** the Ministerial meeting as well as the Legal Experts and Parliamentarians for the work accomplished;

3. **APPROVES** the Draft Constitutive Act of the African Union and **RECOMMENDS** it to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption;

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Protocol relating to the Pan-African-Parliament and **RECOMMENDS** that it should be submitted to a meeting of African Parliamentarians for further examination and, thereafter, to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government through the Council of Ministers.

CM/Dec.520 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY, STABILITY, DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN AFRICA (CSSDCA) - CM/2163 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference;

2. **WELCOMES** the conclusions of the First Ministerial Conference and recommends to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government the adoption of the Draft CSSDCA Declaration;

3. **COMMENDS** the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its readiness to make an initial financial contribution to the CSSDCA process as well as other Member States which also made voluntary contributions;

4. **URGES** all OAU Member States to make voluntary contributions for the sustenance of the CSSDCA process and **TAKES NOTE** of the modalities for the funding of the said process as contained in the report;

5. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to implement the Decisions reached at the CSSDCA meeting as well as the provisions of the Declaration of the CSSDCA.

CM/Dec.521 (LXXII)

DECISION ON ANGOLA
(CM/2164 (LXXII)-a

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Angola;

2. **REITERATES** the firm support and total commitment of the OAU to the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on Angola; particularly Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), 1173 (1998), and 1295 (2000);

3. **CONDEMNS** the premeditated violations of the sanctions against UNITA by some Member States of the United Nations and **STRONGLY APPEALS** to these Member States to immediately and unconditionally put an end to this behaviour which **ENCOURAGES** escalation of the war in Angola;

4. **CALLS ON** the UN Security Council to impose immediate additional sanctions against UNITA, as provided for under Article 41 of the UN Charter;

5. **DECIDES** to set up an Ad-hoc Committee to evaluate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1285, particularly with regard to the sanctions contained in Chapters A,B,C,D,E,F and G, and to submit to the next OAU Council of Ministers a report on the extent of implementation of this resolution by Member States. It further **DECIDES** to mandate the Secretary-General in the light of the evaluation, to propose additional measures to guarantee the effective implementation of Resolution 864/93 against the States which violate the sanctions, in keeping with the provisions of the OAU and UN Charters;

6. **URGES** Member States and the International Community to continue to support the peace efforts and national reconciliation undertaken by the Government of Angola;

7. **FURTHER URGES** the International Community to increase humanitarian assistance to the needy populations and to support the on-going national reconstruction efforts in Angola.

CM/Dec.522 (LXXII)

DECISION ON BURUNDI
(CM/2164 (LXXII)-b)

Council :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi;

2. **PAYS DESERVED TRIBUTE** to the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere for his invaluable and inestimable contribution to the restoration of peace in Burundi;

3. **COMMENDS** the Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process, Mr Nelson Mandela, for his on-going efforts to bring about reconciliation and lasting peace in Burundi ;

4. **CALLS ON** the Parties to continue to cooperate with the Facilitator to ensure the success of the negotiations :

5. **STRONGLY URGES** the armed groups to fully and effectively participate in the negotiations, so as to facilitate a speedy conclusion of a cease-fire agreement and a comprehensive peace Accord ;

6. **CONDEMNS** the acts of violence perpetrated by the armed groups against innocent civilian populations and personnel of humanitarian agencies;

7. **ENCOURAGES** the Government of Burundi to complete the dismantling of the regroupement camps by the end of July, 2000, in accordance with the commitment it has already made to this effect;

8. **URGES** the International Community to resume cooperation with Burundi, during the current phase of the peace process and during the post-conflict period, thereby helping to promote the reconstruction and development in that country.

CM/Dec.523 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE COMOROS
(CM/2164 (LXXII) –c)

Council:

1. **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** that the Anjouanese Separatists continue to be intransigent in refusing to sign the Antananarivo Agreement and to cooperate with the OAU in the search for lasting solution to the crisis in the Comoros, in accordance with the principle of respect for the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;

2. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government the endorsement of its earlier proposal on military related measures against the Anjouanese Separatists, and requests the countries of the Region, under the coordination of South Africa and in close consultation with the Secretariat, to take all appropriate steps to that end ;

3. **URGES** all partners of the OAU to lend their support to the countries of the Region and the OAU in the implementation of these measures ;

4. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that no significant progress has been made towards the return of the Comoros to constitutional order as called for in the Algiers Decisions on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, and **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to continue to engage the Comorian parties with a view to ensuring a speedy return to constitutional rule.

CM/Dec.524 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - CM/2164 (LXXII)-d

Council:

1. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the Lusaka cease-fire Agreement which constitutes the only framework accepted by all the parties for reaching a peaceful, comprehensive and durable settlement of the conflict in the DRC;

2. **URGES** all the Parties to implement the Agreement in good faith, especially the provisions pertaining to compliance with the ceasefire and the Inter-Congolese Political Dialogue;

3. **FURTHER URGES** the Parties to scrupulously respect the plan for the disengagement and redeployment of forces adopted by all the Parties during the meeting of the Political Committee held in Kampala from 6 to 8 April, 2000;

4. **CONDEMNS** the massacres and other atrocities perpetrated in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo;

5. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the adoption of Resolution 1291 of 24 February, 2000, by the United Nations Security Council authorizing the expansion of MONUC to consist of up to 5537 military personnel including up to 500 observers or more, and **URGES** the UN to accomplish the deployment as speedily as possible;

6. **FURTHER EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the United Nations Security Council's decision to establish a Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth in the DRC;

7. **DEMANDS** that all the countries which have forces in the DRC withdraw them in conformity with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;

8. **REITERATES** its confidence in and support for Sir Ketumile Masire, Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese national Dialogue, who was chosen by the Congolese parties with the assistance of the Secretary General of the OAU, and **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to him for the work so far accomplished;

9. **URGES** the Congolese Parties and particularly the government of the DRC to extend to the Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese national dialogue their full cooperation and all the support necessary for the accomplishment of his mission;

10. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the work already done on ground by the Joint Military Commission in collaboration with MONUC, as well as by the Political Committee set up under the Ceasefire Agreement, and **URGES** them to persevere in their efforts;

11. **APPEALS** to Member States and to the rest of the International Community to continue to provide the JMC and the Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese national Dialogue, with financial, material and logistical support;

12. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the leaders of the region, especially to President Frederick Chiluba of the Republic of Zambia, Chairman of the Regional Initiative for Peace in the DRC, as well as to the Current Chairman of the OAU President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and other African Leaders for the untiring efforts they have invested in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the DRC;

13. **WELCOMES,** to that end, the initiative by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Current Chairman of the OAU, for having organized a mini Summit on the Democratic Republic of Congo in Algiers on 30 April 2000. That Summit made it possible to consolidate the progress achieved under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and to give new impetus to efforts towards the restoration of peace through his appeal for the commencement of the Inter-Congolese national dialogue and the implementation of Phase II of the deployment of the United Nations forces in the DRC;

14. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the efforts exerted by the Secretary-General of the OAU towards the implementation of the peace process in the DRC.

CM/Dec.525 (LXXII)

DECISION ON SIERRA LEONE
(CM/2164 (LXXII)-e)

Council:

1. **REAFFIRMS ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the efforts to revive the peace process in Sierra Leone, as provided for under the Lome Peace Agreement which provides the appropriate framework for the resolution of the conflict in Sierra Leone;

2. **URGES** the RUF in particular, to scrupulously abide by and implement the terms of the Agreement, including disarming and demobilizing voluntarily;

3. **CALLS ON** the parties to re-deploy to the positions they held on the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement on 7 July 1999, as decided by the ECOWAS Heads of State, and **ENCOURAGES** ECOWAS in its efforts to establish a ceasefire, aimed at bringing the hostilities and armed conflict in Sierra Leone to an end;

4. **REITERATES** OAU's strong condemnation of the continuing violent attacks by the RUF on UNAMSIL, and the taking of hundreds of UNAMSIL personnel as hostages by the RUF, which acts constitute a violation of the Lome Peace Agreement, the Bamako Summit Communique and UN Security Council Resolutions on Sierra Leone; **CALLS** for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the siege of the Indian contingent of UNAMSIL peace-keepers at Kailahun and restoring to them complete freedom of movement;

5. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Alpha Omar Konare, and the other regional leaders for the efforts they have deployed to bring peace to Sierra Leone;

6. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts made by President Charles Taylor of Liberia, which secured the release of the hostages and **ENCOURAGES** him, while implementing the renewed mandate given to him by ECOWAS, to continue to use his good offices in obtaining the recovery of the arms and equipment taken from the peace-keepers by the RUF.

7. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to Colonel Muamar Al-Qadhafi, Leader of the Great Alfateh Revolution for his assistance in securing the release of the hostages and for his efforts to settle the conflict and to achieve and sustain peace in Sierra Leone;

8. **EXPRESSES SUPPORT** for the decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State that troops be provided from the sub-region to strengthen UNAMSIL, and **CALLS UPON** ECOWAS Member States which have pledged to provide contingents. to honour their commitments;

9. **SUPPORTS** the call by ECOWAS to the United Nations Security Council to change the mandate of UNAMSIL from peacekeeping to peace enforcement; and, further. **REQUESTS** the International Community to provide adequate logistical support to enable UNAMSIL effectively carry out its mandate;

10. **URGES** the RUF to bring to an immediate end, its atrocities and acts of summary execution. rape and abduction of civilians: and release all the civilian hostages, including those held by them before the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement:

11. **WELCOMES** the decision of ECOWAS to conduct a regional enquiry into the illegal trade in diamonds originating from Sierra Leone; and **EXPRESSES SUPPORT** for the Resolution adopted by the United

Nations Security Council on 5 July, 2000, which places a global ban on illegal trade in Sierra Leonean diamonds;

12. **APPEALS** to the International Community to increase humanitarian assistance to victims of the conflict in Sierra Leone.

CM/Dec.526 (LXXII)

DECISION ON SOMALIA
(CM/2164 (LXXII)-f)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the consistent position of the OAU regarding the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia, as one indivisible State;

3. **ACKNOWELDGES** the seriousness of the situation in Somalia as a result of the long absence of national authority given the destructive civil strife and the ensuing insecurity;

4. **ACKNOWLEDGES ALSO** the commendable efforts exerted by the international community, in particular by IGAD Member States, especially by Ethiopia, a country mandated both by IGAD and OAU, the League of Arab States, toward the restoration of peace, stability and state structures in Somalia;

5. **STRONGLY WELCOMES** the initiative launched by President Ismael Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, Current Chairman of IGAD, at the UN General Assembly on 22 September, 1999, which initiative was endorsed by the leaders of IGAD at their Summit held in Djibouti on 26 November, 1999;

6. **RECALLS** the full support earlier extended to the initiative as well as the Peace Plan by the Council of Ministers of IGAD, OAU, League of Arab States, and lastly, on 29 June, 2000, by the UN Security Council;

7. **EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT** to the Djibouti-led IGAD peace process on Somalia, in general, and to the Somalia National Peace Conference now underway in

Djibouti since May 2, 2000, in particular, which has already achieved tremendous progress; and which brought together over 2000 Somali participants from inside and outside the country, and consisting of all walks of life and sections of the society, including elders, traditional and religious leaders, politicians, warlords, peace activists, professionals, business people, scholars, women, minorities and youths;

8. **NOTES** that the people of Djibouti, despite the prevailing economic hardship in the country, have made tremendous sacrifices toward contributing generously to a fund intended to finance this costly process, which has so far been almost entirely borne by Djibouti;

9. **APPEALS** to Member States and the international community as a whole, to extend political, material, financial and moral support to ensure the success of the Conference;

10. **URGES** all remaining warlords and other leaders not in Djibouti to join their Brothers and Sisters and to participate in the Conference which is aimed at seeking the future political direction of Somalia. In this regard, the Council **CALLS UPON** the International Community to exert maximum pressures on warlords and all those leaders who are obstructing the Peace Process, to desist forthwith from engaging in acts or actions designed to destabilize, obstruct, undermine, thwart or scuttle the conference, through threats, harassments and detention of people wishing to express their democratic rights to participate in the conference;

11. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia and **APPEALS** to all Member States and the international community at large, to continue providing humanitarian assistance to those in need in Somalia;

12. **REITERATES ITS CALL** to all Member States to observe the UN arms embargo on Somalia so as to avoid further intensification of the conflict as well as to prevent Somalia from being used as a launching pad for acts of terrorism against neighbouring States;

13. **EXTEND** full political and material backing to the outcome of the Somalia National Peace Conference now in its final leg;

14. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to exert maximum pressure on those who continue to engage in hostile activities towards undermining and obstructing the process and who are depriving the Somali people of their inalienable rights to participate in the Conference that seeks to decide on their political future;

15. **STRONGLY APPEALS** to the international community as a whole (IGAD, OAU, UN, League of Arab States, EU, OIC, NAM, etc) to provide all necessary assistance to the potential national transitional administration in Somalia, particularly reconstruction and development assistance, and rebuilding of institutions.

CM/Dec.527 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ILLICIT PROLIFERATION, CIRCULATION AND TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS - CM/2165 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the African Experts meeting;

2. **WELCOMES** the outcome of the First Continental Meeting of African Experts on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and requests all Member States to examine the pertinent proposals contained in the Meeting's Report;

3. **ENCOURAGES** all Member States to participate fully in the Ministerial Conference on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons scheduled to be held in Bamako towards the end of November 2000, in order to facilitate the mapping out of an African common position on the issue before the convening of the international conference by the United Nations in 2001.

CM/Dec.528 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE
CM/2167 (LXX.)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine;

2. **RECALLS** UN Resolutions on Jerusalem, in particular General Assembly Resolutions 181, 303 and 54/27 and Security Council Resolutions 242, 252, 465, 476 and 478 and **CALLS** for the respect of these resolutions;

3. **REAFFIRMS** the right of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homes, recover their property, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law and other pertinent resolutions of the UN;

4. **RECOGNIZES** the binding character of UN Security Council Resolution 237 which **CALLS** for the return of Palestinians displaced in 1967; as well as other relevant instruments, in particular UNGA Resolution 194 (1948) which provides for the Return of Palestinian refugees to their Homes and Property; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to respect and carry out its obligations. It **FURTHER CALLS** for the establishment of a UN sponsored Commission to ensure the fulfillment of the process of return;

5. **COMMENDS** the progress made in the Israel-Palestine Peace process, including the signing on 4 September, 1999, of the Sharm-El-Sheikh Memorandum between Israel and the PLO;

6. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that the deadline of 13 February, 2000, set in the Sharm-El-Sheikh Memorandum for the conclusion of a framework agreement lapsed without the realization of the goal and principles to withdraw Israeli troops from occupied Palestinian land, the establishment of the Northern safe passage route, the release of all political prisoners and the implementation of economic commitments;

7. **HAILS** the PLO leadership for the patience and wisdom demonstrated and its continued commitment to the achievement of a comprehensive peace;

8. **CALLS UPON** the present Israeli leadership which has so far taken positive steps to consolidate the peace process, to recommit itself in earnest to the path of dialogue and negotiation, as well as to put an end to the policy of expanding and establishing new Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian territory in violation of international law and international humanitarian law as well as the letter and spirit of Agreements reached;

9. **AFFIRMS** the need to maintain and respect the deadline of September 13th 2000, to reach a Permanent Status Agreement and **SUPPORTS** the realization of the establishment of the independent sovereign State of Palestine on Palestinian soil with East Jerusalem as its Capital;

10. **CALLS UPON** Israel to implement previously negotiated Agreements and **URGES** the Parties to intensify their peace efforts aimed at seeking a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict as well as realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people thereby ensuring comprehensive and lasting peace, security and stability in the region.

CM/Dec.529 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST – (CM/2168 (LXXII))

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East;

2. **RECALLS** all the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the Middle East situation which affirm that the Palestinian Question is the core of the Middle East conflict and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace can be established unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and unless the Palestinian people exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with UN resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478 and General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, and on the basis of the land- for- peace formula;

3. **CALLS** for an initiative that will take all the necessary measures that will guarantee Israel's compliance with the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the land-for-peace principle and its full implementation of all the agreements and commitments undertaken on all tracks of the peace process;

4. **URGES** the United Nations and the International Community to guarantee Israel's full compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency that stipulate the use of Israel's nuclear installations for peaceful purposes and compel it to open its nuclear installations to international inspection. The Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency warned of the

grave threats that may be posed by radiation leaks from the Daemona reactor, in the absence of international inspection;

5. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the proposal made by President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt to declare the Middle East an area free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction;

6. **URGES** the Government of Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to refrain from the manufacture , production, testing and possession of nuclear weapons and to place its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

7. **CALLS** for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and the tenets of the Peace Process established at the Madrid Conference;

8. **URGES** all the parties concerned to resume the negotiations in order to create the necessary conditions for lasting peace in the region;

9. **TAKES NOTE** of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon and the efforts deployed by the United Nations to restore normalcy to that region.

CM/Dec.530 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE OAU PEACE FUND
(CM/2170 (LXXII))

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary General on the OAU Peace Fund;

2. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to all Member States and external donors for the financial support they continue to extend to the work of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;

3. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to Member States who have made voluntary contributions to the OAU Peace Fund, and appeals to those who have not done so to make financial contributions to the Fund;

4. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that the operational activities of the OAU Mechanism are largely dependent on external sources of funding, and urges Member States to assume a greater role in the financing of the OAU Peace Fund;

5. **ENCOURAGES** the General Secretariat to further explore ways and means for mobilizing adequate resources for the Peace Fund from non-governmental and non-traditional sources,, including the African business communities;

CM/Dec.531 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA CM/2171 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the OAU Commission on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa;

2. **APPEALS** to Member States to continue to address the root causes of the problem of refugees and displaced persons, and **URGES** the countries of origin to create the conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation of refugees, in accordance with the international legal instruments on refugees;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the treatment of refugees in Africa who do not receive the necessary attention and resources, compared to the assistance granted to refugees in other regions of the world;

4. **URGES** the International Community to provide adequate support and assistance to refugees in Africa, comparable to the quantum of resources available to refugees in other parts of the world;

5. **COMMENDS** the asylum countries which continue to play host to and help refugees, in spite of their socio-economic difficulties made worse recently by natural disasters including floods, drought and famine; however, due to growing hostilities metted out on refugees in many asylum countries, **FURTHER URGES** those countries to develop programmes aimed at educating the host communities on the plight of refugees;

6. **THANKS** OAU Member States and the International Community, especially the humanitarian agencies which have provided assistance to flood, drought and famine stricken populations in the affected African countries, and **APPEALS** to them to continue to extend this assistance so vital in meeting the urgent needs of these populations and in implementing long term reconstruction programmes;

7. **CALLS FOR** the strengthening of co-operation between the OAU and the UN and its agencies, particularly the United Nations Humanitarian Affairs Co-ordination Office, with a view to streamlining their actions in the fight against the scourge of natural or man-made disasters in Africa;

8. **ENDORSES** the Global Implementation Plan adopted by the OAU/UNHCR Special Meeting of Government and Non-Government Technical Experts organized in Conakry, Guinea from 27 to 29 March 2000, on the occasion of the Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the OAU Convention on Refugees, as well as recommendations of the 6th OAU/ICRC Seminar on International Humanitarian Law organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 May 2000;

9. **APPEALS** to Member States to ensure the full implementation and follow-up of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP) and the recommendations of the Sixth OAU/ICRC Seminar on International Humanitarian Law;

10. **CALLS ON** the International Community to provide the necessary resources and funds to implement the Plan and recommendations emanating from the two meetings;

11. **ACCEPTS** the proposal of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR to declare 20 June of each year as World Refugee Day.

CM/Dec.532 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA - (CM/2157 (LXXII))

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Fund;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations of the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Policy Committee of the Fund, especially the standard format for submission of request;

3. **CALLS ON** Member States which have received financial assistance to submit, as a matter of urgency, their project implementation reports, to enable the Secretariat carry out necessary evaluation, thereby enhancing the credibility of the Fund financial management;

4. **TAKES NOTE WITH GRAVE CONCERN** of the food insecurity situation prevailing in several regions of Africa and of the ever-growing needs of drought and famine stricken population;

5. **COMMENDS** Member States which made voluntary contributions and those which honoured their pledges to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund;

6. **REITERATES ITS CALL** on Member States and the International Community to provide financial and material support to the Special Fund to enable it continue its solidarity action;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** Member States that made pledges of voluntary contribution in Harare to honour their commitment;

8. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat to relate the activities of the Special Fund to emergency matters rather than to the funding of development projects;

9. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the Headquarters of the Africa Disaster Management Centre.

CM/Dec.533 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE DECADE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA - CM/2172 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTES** of the Report;

2. **REITERATES** its recommendations to Member States to implement the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education at national level;

3. **APPROVES** the strategy of the Secretary-General opting for a regional approach and management of the Decade, particularly the organization of regional seminars and the setting up of regional coordination structures;

4. In this regard, **COMMENDS** the Republic of the Gambia and the ECOWAS Secretariat for their invaluable contribution towards the organization, in January 2000 in Banjul, of the regional seminar devoted to West Africa and for creating appropriate regional coordination and follow-up structures;

5. **CALLS ON** the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to convene, once a year, a meeting of the Steering Committee and of the Executive Committee of the Decade;

6. **APPROVES** the recommendation of the Steering Committee to admit the Secretariat of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) as member of the Steering Committee of the Decade;

7. **DECIDES** to set up:

- a Working Group on the financial aspects of the Decade;
- a Working Group in-charge of the technical aspects of coordination, follow-up and evaluation of the activities of the Decade;

- a Group of Eminent Personalities to individually and collectively carry out advocacy, sensitization and mobilization activities in favour of education in Africa, and **CALLS ON**, the Secretary-General to define the selection criteria and take the necessary steps to set up the said Group;

8. **CALLS ON** Member States of the OAU and the partners concerned to take into account the appraisal made by the World Conference on Education For All, held in Dakar in April 2000, and to do its utmost to enable Africa to honour the commitments it made at the Conference;

9. To this end, **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to mobilize more financial resources at national level in favour of education in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on the financial aspects of the Decade;

10. **INVITES** International Institutions Organizations as well as interested bilateral and multilateral partners to lend support to the General Secretariat in the mobilization of additional resources necessary for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Decade as well as the regional projects identified in each Regional Economic Community (REC);

11. **FINALLY DECIDES** to create a Fund for the development of education in Africa and **APPEALS** to donors to generously contribute to this Fund.

CM/Dec.534 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF HEALTH (CAMH 6) HELD FROM 18 - 21 OCTOBER, 1999 IN CAIRO, EGYPT CM/2173 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECALLS** the Addis Ababa (1987) Declaration on Health as a Foundation for Development - AHG/Decl.1 (XXIII) and other subsequent Declarations, Decisions and Resolutions on Health endorsed during the last decade;

3. **ENDORSES** the Recommendations of the Sixth Conference of African Ministers of Health (CAMH 6) which was held from 18 - 21 October, 1999 in Cairo, Egypt;

4. **FURTHER ENDORSES**

   a) the Ouagadougou Commitment for Action for the Implementation of the Declarations, Decisions and Recommendations of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU aimed at strengthening HIV/AIDS Control in Africa;

   b) the Algiers Common Position and Plan of Action on Strategies to support HIV/AIDS Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Children Infected by HIV/AIDS ;

   c) the Algiers Appeal by the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission for the Intensification of the Fight Against AIDS in Africa;

5. **URGES** Member States to accelerate Health Sector Reform with a focus on integrating strategies to prevent and control epidemics in Primary Health Care, and by promoting training standards and carrying out studies in order to establish an-African Training Centre, to that effect, **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General, in collaboration with development partners to prepare a Plan of Action for the Health Sector Reform in Africa together with a follow-up mechanism;

6. **CALLS UPON** the international community and all development Partners to cancel in full the debt of African countries in order to release resources which should be targeted to financing Health Sector Reform;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to take necessary actions to that effect and report on the status of the progress made in this area to the Seventy-third Ordinary Session of Council.

CM/Dec.535 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CM/2174 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations as adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission and all relevant documents contained therein;

3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to establish mechanisms for tripartism and social dialogue with all civil society groups, including women and youth, and to demonstrate their political will, commitment and positive attitude to social dialogue;

4. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States, the ILO and UNDP to develop urgently a funding strategy and mobilise enough resources to facilitate the extension of the "Jobs for Africa" Programme to all Member States in order to ensure its continued viability and sustainability;

5. **ALSO CALLS UPON** Member States to accord greater attention to the drug control issue on the Continent and provide their material and financial support to the OAU Drug Control Focal Point;

6. **URGES** Member States to revamp, increase and extend the coverage of their social security schemes as well as to ratify the ILO Social Security Minimum Standards Convention No.102 of 1952; and **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat, with the financial and technical support of the ILO and other social partners, to organise Expert meetings on the extension and reform of the social security system in Africa;

7. **FURTHER URGES** Member States, with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to draw up an African human resources strategy geared towards the efficient utilisation and development of skills and for retaining Experts and reduce brain drain in Africa;

8. **REITERATES** the urgent need for Member States to ratify Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and to take immediate measures to protect and control child labour; and **URGES** Member States which have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to submit names of candidates to the Secretariat in order to accelerate the establishment of the Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

9. **REQUESTS** Member States, with the assistance of WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and ILO, to implement the recommendations of the Common Position and Plan of Action on "Strategies to Support Orphans and Vulnerable Children Affected by HIV/AIDS" adopted in Algiers, Algeria in April 2000;

10. **CALLS UPON** Member States and all stakeholders to take all necessary measures to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999 – 2009);

11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to convene a meeting to map out strategies on how the different players can bring their competencies, resources and capacities together to ensure the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, as well as the outcome document that was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the mid-decade review of the Beijing Platform for Action which was held in New York in June 2000.

CM/Dec.536 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE AFRO-ARAB CULTURAL INSTITUTE - CM/2176 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute;

2. **CONFIRMS** the provisions of its resolution CM/Res.994 (XLII) adopted in Addis Ababa July 1985 by which Council adopted the statutes of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute;

3. **ENDORSES** the agreement concluded between the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, by which the headquarters and the post of Deputy director-General are allotted to OAU Member States while the post of Director General is to be filled by the Member States of the League of Arab States;

4. **DECIDES** that the Republic of Mali should host the headquarters of this Institute and that the post of Deputy Director General should be filled by Chad;

5. **URGES** the Secretary-General to release the OAU share to the budget for the launching activities of the Institute, it being understood that the issue of financing the regular budget of the Institute will be resolved by the Executive Board;

6. **ALSO URGES** the Secretary General of the OAU to enter into consultation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States with a view to convening, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Executive Board of the Institute;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to field a mission to inspect the premises and facilities offered by the country hosting the Headquarters with a view to authorizing the commencement of the activities of the Institute;

8. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report to the Seventy-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the measures taken in this respect.

CM/Dec.537 (LXXII)

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
CM/2158 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Afro-Arab Cooperation;

2. **NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN** the non-convening of the meetings of the policy organs;

3. **CALLS ON** the African and Arab Member States to reactivate, revitalize and revive Afro-Arab Cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields;

4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to pursue contacts with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States with a view to convening the meetings of the Coordinating Committee and of the Standing Commission as early as possible;

5. **URGES** the General Secretariat to study and take concrete actions to implement the recommendations contained in Memorandum CM/Info (Egypt) presented by the Arab Republic of Egypt and endorsed by the Seventieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, and to present a report to the Seventy-third Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to review, with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the possibility of drawing up a new programme of cooperation that takes account of the new orientations of the two entities and explore other areas of cooperation;

7. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Government of Algeria to host the 12th Session of the Standing Commission of Afro-Arab Cooperation;

8. **THANKS** the Lebanese Government for the excellent facilities provided for the organization of the Fifth Afro-Arab Trade Fair;

9. **INVITES** all Member States to participate fully and effectively in the Fifth Afro-Arab Trade Fair.

CM/Dec.538 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF OAU TREATIES CM/2159 (LXXII)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of OAU Treaties;

2. **URGES** all Member States to sign and ratify the Treaties which they have adopted under the aegis of the OAU in order to ensure a more effective implementation of these Treaties.

CM/Dec.539 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OAU AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (CM/2160 (LXXII))

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the World Food Programme;

2. **APPROVES** the Draft Cooperation Agreement and **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General to sign it.

CM/Dec.540 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE DRAFT CONVENTIONS ON EXTRADITION AND ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE - CM/2152 (LXXII) Add.1

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and the Draft Conventions on Extradition and on Mutual Legal Assistance submitted by the Republic of Uganda;

2. **RECOMMENDS** that the Draft Conventions be referred to all Member States for appropriate consultations and comments and observations, if any;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of all Member States at Experts and Ministerial levels to consider the Draft Conventions and, to this end, authorizes expenditure;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report thereafter to the Seventy-fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Dec.541 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE OLYMPIC TRUCE IN AFRICA

Council:

1. **STRESSES** the importance of International Olympic Committee's initiative to promote peace, and its technical and humanitarian assistance to the sports movement in Africa;

2. **STRONGLY DEPLORES** the persistence of armed conflicts which mainly affect the women, children and youth of Africa;

3. **RECALLS** that by declaring the Year 2000 as a Year of peace, security and solidarity in Africa, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government invited Member States to commit themselves to the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts in Africa by end of the year 2000;

4. **URGES** Member States and all the parties to the conflict to observe the Olympic Truce during the XXVIIth Olympic Games to be held in Sydney, Australia from 15 September to 1 October 2000, and also to ensure that the Olympic Truce becomes an instrument of peace, dialogue and reconciliation in conflict zones;

5. **URGES** Member States to take the initiative to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, and endeavor in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Charters of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, to settle all disputes through peaceful and diplomatic means;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce in all Member States and to cooperate closely with the United Nations Organization and the International Olympic Committee to achieve this objective.

CM/Dec.542 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN "AFRICA'S CHILDREN, AFRICA'S FUTURE"

Council:

1. **URGES** Member States to support the Global Partnership for Children, to ensure Africa's substantive input into the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children deliberations in 2001;

2. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to attend the Special Session on Children at the highest level;

3. **REQUESTS** Member States to designate representatives to the Preparatory process of the Special Session, to ensure the articulation of a visionary but feasible agenda for African Children over the next decade;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretariat to develop an African common position, in consultation with relevant International and African institutions as well as civil society organizations, to be tabled before the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children; such a common position should be considered by the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission together with the African Component of the Global Partnership for Children at its next Session.

CM/Dec.543 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE RATIONAL AND OPTIMAL USE OF REGIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING CENTRES IN AFRICA CM/2152 (LXXII) ADD.3)

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECOGNIZES** the importance and role of the Regional Centres in manpower training in Africa;

3. **FURTHER RECOGNIZES** the fact that there is genuine problem concerning those centres and **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the poor State of affairs of these training centres, and **ACKNOWLEDGES** that there is a need to provide them with technical support as well as financial and human resources to enable them to remain viable;

4. **REQUESTS** the General Secretariat of the OAU to take an inventory and carry out an evaluation of all the training centres in the Continent, and come up with measures with a view to their rehabilitation, while indicating the assistance that the General Secretariat can provide in this regard;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary General to submit an appropriate report on this issue to the 74th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Dec.544 (LXXII)

DECISION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ZIMBABWE

Council:

1. **RECALLS AND REAFFIRMS** its statement issued in Tripoli on 2 June 2000 concerning developments in Zimbabwe, in particular those related to the resolution of the land question in that country;

2. **WELCOMES** the reports given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Secretary-General of the OAU on the holding of democratic elections in Zimbabwe from 24-25 June 2000;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the OAU Observer Team to those elections for its commendable work;

4. **REGARDS** the outcome, including the massive turnout of the voters, as a true, democratic reflection of the will of the people of Zimbabwe;

5. **COMMENDS** all the people of Zimbabwe for the peaceful and orderly manner in which they exercised their democratic right in the elections;

6. **DEPLORES** the attempts by some foreign interests, through the massive injection of resources and manipulation of the media, to interfere in and influence the outcome of the elections, as a threat to national independence;

7. **CONSIDERS** that the resolution of the land question is central to the long-term stability and development of Zimbabwe and underlines the special responsibility of the United Kingdom in this regard;

8. **CALLS UPON** the United Kingdom to honour its obligations in accordance with the Lancaster House Agreement to provide the financial resources necessary for the resolution of the land question in Zimbabwe for the benefit of all stakeholders and in the interest of peace, justice and equality.

9. **WELCOMES** and **ENCOURAGES** the efforts of those countries seeking to promote dialogue and achieve agreement between Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom on the land issue.

CM/Dec.545 (LXXII)

DECISION ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the presentation made by the delegation of Mali on the on-going activities within respective African countries in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Volunteers and **ENCOURAGES** all Member States to continue their efforts, especially in establishing National IYV Committees and preparing National Action Plans;

2. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to take advantage of the International Year of Volunteers to promote volunteering by helping raise public awareness about the value of volunteering and establishing an enabling environment for voluntary action;

3. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** non-governmental organizations and the private sector to take all possible measures to promote voluntary action, particularly at local level and in cooperation with, inter-alia, local authorities, community leaders, media, academia.

CM/Dec.546 (LXXII)

DECISION ON CANDIDATURES

COUNCIL,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendation contained in paragraph 16 A and paragraph 17 of the Report;

3. **DECIDES** to endorse the following candidatures:

   a) Ambassador Ahmed T. Khalil from Egypt for membership of the United Nations Human Rights Committee for the period 2001 – 2004 at the elections which will be held in September 2000, in New York;

   b) Arab Republic of Egypt to the membership of the Council of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the floating seat allocated to the African Group for the period 2000 2002 during the elections due to be held in September, 2000, in Vienna;

   c) Professor Maurice Glele Ahanhanzo, from Benin, for membership of the United Nations Human Rights Committee for the period 2001 – 2004 at the election which will be held in September 2000, in New York;

   d) Ambassador Maxim-Leopold Zollner de Medeiros, from Benin, for the post of Director General of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, during the election which will be held during the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly in New York;

e) Republic of South Africa as member of the ECOSOC for the period beginning January 2001;

f) Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah, from Mauritius for re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Committee for the period 2001 - 2004 during the elections to be held in New York, in September 2000;

g) Republic of the Sudan for one of the non-Permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council for the period 2001 - 2002 in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee on Candidatures and of the African Group in New York;

h) Mr. V. Poonoosamy from Mauritius for the post of President of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization during the elections to be held in 2001.

CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1 (VII)

REGULATION

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, and

Having examined the reports of the Secretary-General on implementation of this Treaty, as well as the decision and regulations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the OAU held in Algiers, Algeria in July, 1999,

HEREBY RULES:

1. **Implementation of the Decision and Regulations of AEC**

a) Member States are requested to:

i) implement the decisions of AEC and ensure that their national legislations reflect and take due account of the decisions of AEC;

ii) assign to specific Ministers the task of continental integration with a view to coordinating and harmonizing policies and programmes in this sector; and

iii) ensure that the programmes and activities of the RECs to which they belong are consistent with the objectives of the Abuja Treaty.

b) Member States are commended for the efforts and progress made by the Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA) as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the area of trade liberalization especially in meeting the target dates for establishment of free trade areas and monetary zones.

2. **Cooperation between the AEC and the RECs**

a) The RECs which have not yet done so are requested to review their constituent text in the light of the Abuja Treaty;

b) The RECs are also requested to:

i) place their programmes and activities within the framework of continental integration; and

ii) invite the AEC to their meetings.

c) The AEC and RECs should harmonize and coordinate their programmes, and designate a focal point for each sector of activity;

d) The AEC and the RECs, as well as the ADB and ECA should also intensify and pool their efforts for the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources to support integration programmes;

e) The General Secretariat should take necessary measures to speed up implementation of the programme for harmonization of the REC protocols and to popularize the Abuja Treaty and the constituent texts of the RECs;

f) A mechanism should be established for the Chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of the RECs to meet regularly, preceded by the meeting of the Committee of Secretariat Officials, with a view to promoting programme coordination among the RECs.

3. **Cooperation among the RECs**

The RECs are requested to:

i) invite one another to their meetings; and
ii) exchange their programmes and expertise, with the assistance of the AEC General Secretariat.

4. **Free Movement of Persons**

Each Member State is requested to exempt from visa requirements officials of the OAU/AEC General Secretariat and of the Regional Economic Communities on mission and holding the travel documents of these institutions, and to submit a report on this

matter to the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) of the African Economic Community (AEC) in conformity with point 5 of Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (II) adopted in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AEC.

5. **Cooperation in the Area of Energy**

The General Secretariat should take appropriate steps to organise a meeting of Ministers responsible for Energy in order to adopt the statutes of the African Energy Commission and the requisite instruments for the early establishment of the Commission.

6. **International Negotiations and Initiatives**

a) The Fourth Regular Session of the AEC/ECOSOC is called upon to undertake an assessment of the major international negotiations with a view to facilitating effective implementation of the conclusions and agreements concluded;

b) Note is taken of the arrangement toward convening the China-Africa Forum in Beijing in October 2000; and the General Secretariat should liaise with all Member States and RECs with a view to organising a preparatory meeting in Beijing for the formulation of a draft joint declaration and programme of action.

7. **Participation of Member States in Meetings**

Member States are urged to ensure the effective participation of their responsible Ministers in the Third Meeting of the AEC Committee of Ministers of Trade, the Fourth Session of AEC/ECOSOC, the Conference of Ministers responsible for Energy and in the preparatory meeting for the Third UN Conference on the LDCs.

8. **Cooperation in the Area of Trade**

The Third Meeting of the AEC Specialised Committee of Ministers of Trade, Customs and Immigration scheduled for 11 – 15 September 2000, in Cairo, Egypt, is requested to:

a) Take a decision on the date and venue of the 8th All-Africa Trade Fair, as well as on other preparatory arrangements so as to facilitate successful organization of the Fair.

b) Give special consideration to the impact of globalization, the new ACP-EU Partnership Agreement and the US-Africa Trade and Development Act on trade liberalization and regional integration in the continent.

Done in Lome, Togo, 09 July, 2000

Kokou Joseph KOFFIGOH

Minister of Foreign Affairs
And Cooperation of the
Republic of Togo
Chairman of Council

Annex II

Declarations, statements and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session and fourth ordinary session of the African Economic Community

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AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVI)

Declaration on the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly and the 4th Ordinary Session of the African Economic Community in Lome, Togo from 10 to 12 July 2000, **have** undertaken a critical review of the socio-economic situation of the 33 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa.

2. **WE NOTE** with concern that the socio-economic situation in these countries has continued to deteriorate, and that this situation has been exacerbated by external debt, inadequate infrastructure facilities, as well as by conflicts in some regions and natural disasters like cyclones, floods, and drought in others, leading to a rising level of poverty. Despite the drastic structural adjustment and policy reforms carried out by our countries, the number of countries in our continent classified in the category of Least Developed Countries has not decreased.

3. The international community, including the institutions within the United Nations System, has demonstrated its support to the LDCs through special initiatives targeted at this category of countries. In this regard, **WE WELCOME** the opportunity provided by the 3rd United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as a Forum for the International Community to go beyond general declarations of intent and commitment, and embark on concrete implementable actions directed at ameliorating the socio-economic situation in the LDCs, with a view to attaining the internationally agreed target of reducing the level of poverty by half by the year 2015.

4. **WE REAFFIRM** at the same time, that the development of African LDCs is primarily the responsibility of their governments and peoples. In this regard, **WE COMMIT** ourselves individually and collectively to support the effort of the LDCs in our continent through programmes for promoting regional economic cooperation. This, **WE BELIEVE** is the only way forward for Africa as a whole to integrate into the global economy equitably.

5. In order to assist the LDCs deal with the serious challenges they continue to face, **WE CALL ON** the international community to redouble its effort in the critical areas of debt cancellation, resource flows, capacity building and infrastructural development with concrete programmes to be

worked out in close consultation and cooperation with our continental and regional organizations.

6. For the LDCs to be a credible participant in the global economy and conscious of the unavoidable phenomenon of globalisation, **WE CALL** on the 3rd UN Conference on the LDCs to launch a programme for the accelerated transformation of the economies of these countries, with emphasis on expanding and diversifying the production and export base. While **WE COMMEND** the decision to improve market access for products from the LDCs, **WE FIRMLY BELIEVE** that these opportunities can be exploited advantageously only when the required production and export capacities have been established and strengthened in the LDCs.

7. With regard to the debt problem of the LDCs, **WE WELCOME** the announcement concerning the enhancing of HIPC Initiative and call on the international community to provide adequate resources for its effective operationalization. While underscoring the fact that external debt and the debt service payments represent an excruciating burden on our continent and stifle our effort at development, **WE CALL ON** the creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions to provide real debt relief, including debt cancellation in favour of all LDCs, complemented by increased capital flows, particularly Official Development Assistance to meet the international agreed target, and Foreign Direct Investment. **WE,** on our part, **UNDERTAKE TO COMMIT** the funds released from such actions to the development of our societies with a view to eradicating poverty.

8. **WE PLEDGE** to lend our full support to the African LDCs in preparing for the 3rd UN Conference and to ensure the effective participation of all our countries. **WE CALL ON** the Secretary-General of the OAU, in consultation and cooperation with all the Regional Economic Communities, UNCTAD and other related UN bodies to assist the LDCs in the preparation for the 3rd UN Conference and to organise in that respect an African ministerial conference for the purpose of adopting an African common position.

Lome, Togo
12 July2000

AHG/Decl.2 (XXXVI)

LOME DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo from 10 to 12 July, 2000,

Firmly committed to the fundamental principles and objectives of the OAU Charter adopted by the Founding Fathers, namely, political independence, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, promotion of peace, security, co-operation, development and human and peoples rights,

Conscious of the persistence of conflict situations and acts of violence which are seriously undermining the security and stability of our States, and gravely hampering our development efforts

Convinced of the need to work towards the maintenance of regional and international peace and security, in accordance with the United Nations Organization (UN) and OAU Charters,

Noting with concern that the reform of the Security Council aimed at aligning its membership and functioning to new exigencies is long overdue,

Deploring the fact that the International Community has not always accorded due attention to conflict management in Africa, as it has consistently done in other regions of the world, and that the efforts exerted by Africans themselves in the area of peace keeping, as provided for under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, are not given adequate financial and logistical support,

Gravely Concerned by the growing number of refugees and displaced persons on the African Continent, as a result of all these conflicts,

Also deploring the growing deterioration of the prices of raw materials and the obstacles militating against access of African countries to international trade,

Further Gravely concerned by the negative effect of indebtedness on African economies and by the persistent decline of ODA and investments in our countries,

Recognizing that Africa's progress and economic and social development are contingent upon the integration of African economies, as stipulated in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Considering the imperative need to strengthen African economies in order to enable them to benefit from the globalization process,

Stressing the importance of the International Community's contribution to efforts by African States for sustainable development, a prerequisite for peace and security,

Further stressing the importance of technology transfer for Africa's industrial development,

Further Recognizing that misery, poverty, hunger, disease, injustice, illiteracy and war constitute major impediments to the development and advancement of our peoples,

Recalling the importance of education, training and capacity building in Africa's development process,

Also Recognizing the preponderant place and role of African women in the economic, social, human and cultural development, as well as in the edification of a harmonious and prosperous African society,

Further Considering that cross-border criminality, illicit proliferation circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism constitute serious threats to security and stability, and hamper the harmonious economic and social development of the Continent,

Bearing in mind our Decision AHG/Dec. 137 (LXXV) of July 1999 on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons,

Further Noting with concern that the plight of millions of African children is worsening by the day due to war, their conscription for armed conflicts and their abusive exploitation in many respects,

Further Recalling the need to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,

Also Gravely concerned by the widespread incidence of HIV/AIDS and the ravages caused by other pandemics such as malaria, which seriously undermine Africa's development efforts,

Further concerned with the devastating effects of natural disasters in Africa on the lives of the peoples and on the national and regional economies,

Aware that development, democracy, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, good governance, tolerance, culture of peace are essential prerequisites for the establishment and maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Further Convinced that cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations are sources of enrichment and progress,

Reiterating our faith in the Sirte declaration of 9 September 1999,

1. **REAFFIRM** our strong resolve to make the year 2000, a year of peace, security and solidarity in Africa, in accordance with Declaration AHG/Decl.2 (XXXV) which we adopted at our 35th Ordinary Session held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999;

2. **COMMIT OURSELVES** to intensify our actions for peace, and to support efforts aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Africa, particularly through the strengthening of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and of African capacities for conflict management and the maintenance of peace and security;

3. **STRONGLY ADVOCATE** co-operation in the area of peace keeping and security between the United Nations Organization (UNO) , the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and African Regional Organizations;

4. Recognizing the expansion of UN peacekeeping activities and the need for adequate resources for rapid and efficient deployment of peacekeeping operations, **WE AFFIRM** the

importance of taking necessary steps to ensure an adequate system of financing for all UN peacekeeping activities;

5. While recalling that maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council, **WE URGE** the United Nations and the International Community to pay necessary attention to the management and resolution of conflicts in Africa and actively support the initiatives deployed under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter;

6. **REAFFIRM FURTHER** the need to pursue efforts aimed at achieving comprehensive and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, as a means of attaining the objectives of regional and international peace and security;

7. **COMMIT OURSELVES FURTHER** to tackle the root causes of the problem of refugees and displaced persons, and to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation of refugees and return of displaced persons to their places of origin;

8. **ARE DETERMINED** to preserve Africa as a nuclear free zone in conformity with the PELINDABA TREATY signed in Cairo on 11 April 1996, and **REAFFIRM** our resolve to leave no stone unturned to ensure the early entry into force of this Treaty;

9. **COMMIT OURSELVES ALSO** to resolutely combat cross-border criminality, illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism;

10. **WELCOME** the moratorium on import, export and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in Africa introduced by ECOWAS Member States, and **ENCOURAGES** the establishment of similar mechanisms in other regions;

11. **EMPHASIZE** the need for African States to take an active part in the 2001 World Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects;

12. **SOLEMNLY APPEAL** to Member States to speed up the ratification process of the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism signed in Algiers on 14 July 1999;

13. **REITERATE** our determination to continue to promote respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, rule of law and good governance in our countries;

14. **REAFFIRM ALSO** the imperative need to accelerate the reform of the United Nations Security Council, and ensure that its membership is more reflective of the universality of the Organization, a prerequisite for its increased credibility;

15. **ARE FIRMLY RESOLVED** to hasten the African integration process, particularly through:

- dynamic cooperation among the Regional Economic Communities;

- enhancement of intra and inter-regional trade, and

- rationalization and optimum use of the regional training and capacity-building centers in Africa in conformity with the 1991 Abuja Treaty Establishing the African economic community.

16. **RECALL WITH SATISFACTION** the successful holding on 3-4 April 2000, of the Africa-Europe Summit in Cairo, Egypt, as a historic effort to strengthen cooperation and develop a new strategic partnership between the two Continents and **URGE** that efforts be sustained to implement the decisions contained in the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action;

17. **FURTHER REAFFIRM** our commitment to the Libreville Summit Declaration and Plan of Action and the Social Summit of Copenhagen on the increase of poverty and its reduction in Africa and **REITERATE** our pledge to implement this Plan of Action;

18. **CALL ON** the industrialized countries to take more purposeful and innovative initiatives aimed at the total cancellation of the debt owed by African countries;

19. **AGREE** to reinvigorate the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt in order to continue to search for suitable solutions to the excruciating debt burden;

20. **FURTHER CALL ON** the International Community to do its utmost to ensure that globalization serves the interest of all countries without discrimination and, in particular, facilitate the effective participation of our countries in the global trade system, thereby helping us to lay the foundations for durable and equitable growth;

21. **FURTHER REAFFIRM** our firm resolve to eliminate poverty, illiteracy and social inequalities in our countries, and in this regard, **SUPPORT** the efforts aimed at the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund;

22. **CALL UPON** Member States to strengthen the measures designed to implement the Programme of Action of the Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006) and **SUPPORT** the resolutions adopted by the Dakar UNESCO Conference on Education held from 24 – 28 April 2000;

23. **ADVOCATE FURTHER** the establishment and promotion of the new communication and information technologies as invaluable tools for the promotion of culture, education and development;

24. **REAFFIRM FINALLY** our determination to implement all relevant United Nations and OAU Declarations aimed at the rapid and definitive elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and **URGE** for greater participation of women at all levels of management of public affairs and development;

25. **EXHORT** Member States to implement policies which contribute to the promotion and exercise of the rights of the child, as well as the full physical, intellectual and moral development of the child in an environment of peace, security and stability;

26. **CALL ON ALSO** the International Community to lend support to our efforts in the promotion of health care, particularly in the fight against Malaria and AIDS, in accordance with the pertinent decisions and resolutions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers;

27. **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the establishment of an African mechanism for the prevention and control of natural disasters and the strengthening of the relevant funds to mitigate their destructive effects in Africa;

28. Reaffirming that Africa's development devolves primarily on our Governments and peoples, **WE ARE RESOLVED** to consolidate the foundations of equitable and sustainable development centered on humankind, and underpinned by viable economic policies, social justice, respect for human rights and effective management of public affairs, thereby ensuring the speedy structural transformation of our economies;

29. To these ends, **WE FINALLY AND SOLEMNLY COMMIT OURSELVES** to resolutely support all efforts geared to defending and promoting Africa's interests within the context of the **African Union,** as stipulated in the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999, thereby making Africa a more united, more prosperous and stronger Continent, fully responsible for its own destiny.

Done in LOME, Republic of Togo, 12 JULY 2000

AHG/Decl.3 (XXXVI)

LOME DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting at the Thirty sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo from 10 to 12 July, 2000,

Having devoted a full session of our meeting to deliberate frankly and extensively on the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in our countries and **Bearing in Mind** the daunting medical, socio-economic and political challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS scourge in our continent;

Recognizing that responding to those challenges requires inter-alia, intense awareness building campaign and an expression of political will of an exceptional nature at the highest possible level in all countries of our continent;

Recalling our previous Declaration AHG/Decl.(XXIII) on Health, as a Foundation for Socio-Economic Development, endorsed in 1987 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as our Dakar (1992) and Tunis (1994) Declarations on HIV/AIDS in Africa in which we committed ourselves to mobilize all segments of the society in our countries, to fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

Gravely Concerned about the rapid spread of HIV infection in our countries and the millions of deaths caused by AIDS throughout our continent in spite of the serious efforts being invested by our countries to combat this scourge, as well as infectious diseases particularly sexually transmitted diseases (STDs);

Further Concerned by the recurrence of diseases which had previously been eradicated from our continent, such as Tuberculosis, and the emergence of new diseases which have become prevalent in Africa, and are complicating the control of HIV/AIDS;

Commending the efforts made by our respective individual national governments, our Continental Organization, the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, national and International NGOs, and some individuals, to sensitize our peoples to the threat of HIV/AIDS and **Recognizing** that progress made in this endeavour has remained largely limited, uneven, fragile and incomplete;

Further Recognizing that the sacrifices, and ability of our people mainly women to cope with the tragic consequences of this pandemic at the individual, family, community and national levels, to confront and overcome the losses and threats of HIV/AIDS, need our greater attention and support;

SOLEMNLY DECIDE TO:

- **RECOMMIT OURSELVES** and our Governments to the principles and actions enunciated in our previous Declarations, Decisions and Recommendations on controlling the spread of the HIV/AIDS on our continent;

- **COMMIT OURSELVES** to take personal responsibility and provide leadership for the activities of the National AIDS Commissions/Councils where they exist and ensure that they are established where they do not exist;

- **RESOLVE** to keep the question of HIV/AIDS high on national agenda for health, social, cultural and economic activities and to make it a development issue;

- **ENHANCE** capacities of our Governments, particularly our Ministries of Health, to develop and enact national strategies to deal with HIV/AIDS as a priority within our national development plans;

TO THAT EFFECT, WE RESOLVE TO ENDORSE:

- The Algiers Common Position and Plan of Action on Strategies to support HIV/AIDS Orphans, Vulnerable Children and children-infected by HIV/AIDS adopted by the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

- The Algiers Appeal by the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission for the Intensification of the fight Against AIDS in Africa;

- The Ouagadougou Commitment for Action for the Implementation of the Declarations, Decisions and Recommendations of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU aimed at strengthening HIV/AIDS Control in Africa;

The Framework of the International Partnership on AIDS in Africa in order to intensify the health sector response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

- **FURTHER COMMIT OURSELVES** and **PLEDGE TO TAKE** all necessary measures to facilitate the implementation of the above instruments and to allocate resources within the framework of our national budgets to HIV/AIDS activities, particularly the prevention and the epidemiological study of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, public education on HIV/AIDS and its prevention and care, taking due recognition of the needs of HIV positive people and People Living with AIDS, their rights and roles in the containment of the epidemic;

- REQUEST the **International Partnership against HIV/AIDS** to collaborate with the OAU General Secretariat and our individual Member States in order to mobilize necessary additional financial resources for the fight against AIDS epidemic in Africa;

- **MANDATE** our Governments, with the assistance of International partners, to take all necessary measures in order to accelerate Health Sector reform with a focus on all pandemics in general and HIV/AIDS in particular, as a basis for improving the standard of living of our populations;

- **FURTHER REQUEST** our Secretary-General in collaboration with international partners, to draw up a Plan of Action for acceleration of Health Sector Reform with a focus on epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, and malaria in our Continent, particularly the establishment of research and training centres where African indigenous knowledge on health systems could be incorporated.

- **ALSO REQUEST** our Secretary-General, in collaboration with WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and all other interested international partners, to follow-up on the implementation of this Declaration and report to our Assembly every year on progress achieved.

AHG/Decl.4 (XXXVI)

CSSDCA SOLEMN DECLARATION

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in Lome, Togo, at the 36th Assembly of our Organization, have considered the report of the Ministerial meeting of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) held in Abuja, from 8 to 9 May, 2000. The Ministerial Conference was convened pursuant to the decision taken in Algiers in July 1999, proclaiming 2000 as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa as well as the Declaration adopted on 9 September, 1999, at our 4th Extraordinary Summit in Sirte, in the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which, inter-alia, decided on the establishment of an African Union and the convening of the Ministerial Conference.

2. We recall the Decisions we have taken, over the years, to promote political stability and economic development in our Continent. In the realm of promoting stability, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and the Declaration on the Political and Socio-Economic Situation in Africa and the Fundamental Changes Taking Place in the World, were adopted in 1990.

3. In June 1993, in Cairo, Egypt, we adopted a Declaration establishing the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to forge, within the OAU, a new institutional dynamism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. In 1981 and 1998 respectively, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Protocol on the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, were adopted. Both were important instruments for ensuring the promotion, protection and observance of human rights as an integral part of our Organization's wider objective of promoting collective security for durable peace and sustainable development.

4. "In July 1997, during our Summit in Harare, we took a stand against Unconstitutional Changes of Government. This led the Algiers Summit of July 1999 to adopt a decision on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments to reinforce respect for democracy, the rule of law, good governance and stability."

5. In the area of development and cooperation, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos were adopted in 1980; the Treaty

establishing the African Economic Community and the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa, were adopted in 1991 and 1995 respectively. The Sirte Declaration of September 1999, included measures for accelerating the process of economic integration and addressing the question of Africa's indebtedness.

6. We recall that these concerns were at the core of the initiative launched by the African Leadership Forum on the CSSDCA process. We note that the conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa as proposed in the Kampala Document was not conceived as a one-off event, but rather as a process. The underlying thinking of the CSSDCA process as articulated in the four calabashes of the Kampala Document of 1991 was a recognition of the fact that the problems of security and stability in many African countries had impaired their capacity to achieve the necessary level of intra and inter-African cooperation that is required to attain the integration of the continent and critical to the continent's socio-economic development and transformation. In this regard, we have used both the revised Kampala Document and the working document elaborated by our experts in Addis Ababa to enrich our thinking on the CSSDCA process.

7. We note that all the major decisions taken by our Organization since its inception, reflect the inter-linkage between peace, stability, development, integration and cooperation. We believe that the CSSDCA process creates a synergy between the various activities currently undertaken by our Organization and should therefore help to consolidate the work of the OAU in the areas of peace, security, stability, development and cooperation. It should provide a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of common values within the main policy organs of the OAU.

8. We are convinced that the interactive approach embedded in the CSSDCA initiative, should provide an invaluable tool for the pursuit of the agenda of the OAU in the new millennium, with particular reference to the issues of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

9. In recognition of the importance of the CSSDCA, which shall encompass four major areas henceforth called Calabashes: Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in furthering Africa's interests

within the ambit of the OAU, we affirm the following general and specific principles:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(a) Respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of all Member States;

(b) The security, stability and development of every African country is inseparably linked to that of other African countries. Instability in one country affects the stability of neighbouring countries and has serious implications for continental unity, peace and development;

(c) The interdependence of Member States and the link between their security, stability and development make it imperative to develop a common African agenda. Such an agenda must be based on a unity of purpose and a collective political consensus derived from a firm conviction that Africa cannot make any significant progress without finding lasting solutions to the problem of peace and security;

(d) The peaceful resolution of disputes, with emphasis on seeking African solutions to African problems;

(e) The prevention, management and resolution of conflicts provide the enabling environment for peace, security, stability and development to flourish;

(f) The responsibility for the security, stability and socio-economic development of the Continent lies primarily with African States;

(g) While recognizing that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security has with the United Nations Security Council, the OAU, in close cooperation with the United Nations and the Regional Economic Communities, remains the premier organization for promoting security, stability, development and cooperation in Africa;

(h) Democracy, good governance, respect for human and peoples' rights and the rule of law are prerequisites for the security, stability and development of the Continent;

(i) Africa's resources should be used more effectively to meet the needs of African peoples and to improve their well-being;

(j) The fulfillment of the objectives of the CSSDCA requires the strengthening of Africa's solidarity and partnership with other regions of the world, in order to meet the challenges of globalization and avoid further marginalization;

(k) HIV/AIDS and other pandemics on the continent constitute a threat to human security as well as short and long term sustainable growth in Africa;

(l) Member States should adhere in good faith to all CSSDCA principles and ensure their implementation.

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

Security

10. Recognizing that security should be seen in its wholesomeness and totality including the right of peoples to live in peace with access to the basic necessities of life, while fully enjoying the rights enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and freely participating in the affairs of their societies; and bearing in mind that Africa's security and that of its Member States are inseparably linked with the security of all African peoples;

We affirm that:

(a) Security should be recognized as a pillar of the CSSDCA process. It is an indispensable condition for peace, stability, development and cooperation. It underscores the organic links that exist between the security of Member States as a whole and the security of each of them on the basis of their history, culture, geography and their common destiny. This implies individual and collective responsibilities exercised within the basic framework of the African Charter on Human

and Peoples Rights and other relevant international instruments;

(b) The concept of security must embrace all aspects of society including economic, political, and social and environmental dimensions of the individual, family, and community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be based on the security of the life of the individual citizens to live in peace and to satisfy basic needs while being able to participate fully in societal affairs and enjoying freedom and fundamental human rights;

(c) The security of all Africans and their States as a whole is indispensable for stability, development and cooperation in Africa. This should be a sacred responsibility of all African States – individually and collectively- which must be exercised within the basic framework of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant international instruments;

(d) Member States should in times of peace undertake the delimitation and demarcation of common borders;

(e) There is an imperative need to build and enhance Africa's capacity for peace support operations, emergency relief preparedness and natural disaster response at the sub-regional and continental levels, including the strengthening of regional efforts and initiatives;

(f) Foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Member States, especially in situations of conflict should be resisted and condemned by all Member States;

(g) The problem of refugees and displaced persons constitutes a threat to peace and security of the continent and its root causes must be addressed;

(h) Uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons as well as the problem of landmines pose a threat to peace and security in the African continent.

Stability

11. Noting that stability requires that all States be guided by strict adherence to the rule of law, good governance, peoples participation in public affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the establishment of political organizations devoid of sectarian, religious, ethnic, regional and racial extremism;

We affirm that:

(a) The Executive, legislative and judicial branches of government must respect their national constitutions and adhere to the provisions of the law and other legislative enactment promulgated by National Assemblies. No one should be exempted from accountability;

(b) The active and genuine participation of citizens of every country in the decision-making processes and in the conduct of public affairs must be fostered and facilitated;

(c) All rights and freedoms of citizens should be promoted and protected;

(d) There shall be no hindrance to the promotion of political pluralism. All forms of extremism and intolerance foster instability;

(e) Terrorism, in all its manifestations, is inimical to stability.

Development

12. Noting that the attainment of self-reliance, sustainable growth and economic development will be facilitated by the promotion of economic cooperation and integration; that effective diversification of the resource and production base is vital for rapid social and economic transformation; that popular participation, equal opportunity, transparency in public policy-making and partnership between government and peoples are necessary for the achievement of development; that improved access to resources and markets for Africa's exports as well as debt cancellation and capacity-building in all fields of human endeavour are crucial for Africa's development;

We affirm that:

(a) The accelerated economic development of our countries is at the centre of our national policies and in this regard, comprehensive programmes will be put in place at the national and regional levels to address capacity constraints, infrastructural problems and weak industrial and technological base;

(b) Self-sustaining economic growth and development must be grounded on self-reliance and diversification of the production base of African economies;

(c) Unilateral imposition of economic sanctions and blockade are unjust and constitute a serious constraint to development;

(d) Rapid physical and economic integration of the continent through the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities is vital for Africa's economic recovery and development and for enhancing prospects to achieve competitiveness in a globalizing world;

(e) The principles of popular participation, equal opportunity and equitable access to resources for all people must underlie all development objectives and strategies;

(f) Partnership, trust and transparency between leaders and citizens will be critical to ensure sustainable development, based on mutual responsibilities and a shared vision;

(g) An effective solution to Africa's external debt problem including total debt cancellation in accordance with the mandates given to the Presidents of Algeria and South Africa is crucial to supporting Africa's programme on poverty eradication;

(h) The inalienable sovereign right of African countries to control their natural resources must be respected.

Cooperation

13. Noting the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration to the development of our continent, and the efforts so far made in this connection to implement the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, as well as the various initiatives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and stressing the need to articulate and harmonize the macro-economic policies, strengthen the institutions for regional integration and build regional infrastructural networks, particularly in the transport and communication sectors;

We affirm that:

(a) Member States should further intensify efforts at economic integration to compete better in the global economy and work towards a shortened time-table for the realization of the African Economic Community (AEC);

(b) Member States should act jointly and collectively to develop, protect, manage and equitably utilize common natural resources for mutual benefit;

(c) Taking into account the growing global interdependence, African countries must seek to explore further, opportunities for beneficial cooperative relations with other developing and industrialized countries;

(d) In pursuing closer cooperation and integration, African countries will need to transfer certain responsibilities to continental or sub-regional institutions within the framework of the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities;

(e) The promotion of North-South and South-South cooperation is an important strategy in Africa's development effort, particularly in addressing issues such as Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows, external debt and terms of trade which impact on Africa's development;

(f) The process of regional and continental integration will be facilitated by enhanced effort of harmonization and coordination of economic programmes and policies of Regional Economic Communities.

PLAN OF ACTION

14. Having identified the General and Specific Principles that will guide the CSSDCA process and having reached a consensus on the need to put in place measures for the implementation of those principles, we, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, have agreed on the following Plan of Action.

Security

We agree to:

a) Reinforce Africa's capacity for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution by strengthening the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in particular, through the mobilization of additional resources and logistical support for the operational activities of the Mechanism and the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Central Organ;

b) Strengthen the capacity of the OAU mechanism for negotiation, mediation and conciliation, inter-alia, through the use of African statesmen and eminent personalities in overall efforts to prevent, manage and/or resolve conflicts;

c) Establish modalities for more effective cooperation, coordination and harmonization between the OAU and African and non-African organizations on the one hand, and between the OAU and the UN, as the World body which is primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, on the other, especially, in relation to peace-building and peace-making and peace-keeping;

d) Adopt confidence-building measures based on trust,

In this regard, negotiations for the delimitation and demarcation of disputed borders, exchange of information and cooperation at the sub-regional level on security matters, especially on issues relating to terrorism, cross border criminal activities and joint military training as well as emergency relief preparedness and natural disaster response;

e) Recommit ourselves to politically negotiated approaches for resolving conflicts so as to create an environment of peace and stability on the continent that will also have the effect of reducing military expenditure, thus releasing additional resources for socio-economic development;

f) Ensure that parties to conflicts commit themselves to fully cooperate with the efforts made within the framework of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and of regional mechanisms;

g) Endorse the proposed OAU Early Warning System which should be made fully operational expeditiously, to provide timely information on conflict situations in Africa. This should be complemented by a corresponding preparedness by our States to facilitate early political action by the OAU, based on Early Warning information;

h) Enhance OAU's capacity for mobilizing support and resources for the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of countries emerging from conflicts;

i) Implement the Decision of the 31st Summit on Ready Contingents within Member States for possible deployment by the UN and in exceptional circumstances, by the OAU, as well as the recommendations of the meetings of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff;

j) Address the root causes of the problem of refugees and displaced persons on the continent and work towards the mobilization of resources to provide adequate assistance for asylum countries to enable them mitigate the impact of the

k) Address the phenomena of armed elements and political activists in Refugee Camps, impunity, crimes against humanity, child soldiers and drug addiction, which have contributed to the state of insecurity in some parts of the continent;

l) Work towards ending the illicit proliferation and trafficking in small arms and light weapons that has played a major role in perpetuating intra and inter-State conflicts in Africa.

m) Monitor progress and regularly evaluate the implementation of the Algiers Decision declaring the year 2000, as the Year of Peace, Security and Solidarity in Africa.

Stability

We agree to:

a) Intensify efforts aimed at enhancing the process of democratization in Africa. In this regard, the strengthening of institutions that will sustain democracy on the continent including the holding of free and fair elections should be encouraged;

b) Adopt and implement a set of guidelines for dealing with unconstitutional and undemocratic changes in Africa in line with the Decisions that we took during the 35th Ordinary Session of our Assembly held in Algiers in 1999;

c) Encourage the participation and contribution of Civil Society in our States, to the efforts to bring about further democratization in our Continent;

d) Recommit ourselves to the promotion of Good Governance, a culture of peace and accountability by leaders and officials, as a shared community value;

e) Encourage civic education on good governance and the promotion of African values in African institutions and

h) Uphold and guarantee the rule of law, the protection and defence of the rights of citizenship as acquired at independence and as provided for in national constitutions;

i) Vigorously combat racism, extreme nationalism, religious extremism and xenophobic tendencies;

j) Promote and encourage cohesion, national solidarity and identity within African societies;

k) Protect and promote respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, such as the freedom of expression and association, political and trade union pluralism and other forms of participatory democracy;

l) Ensure the equitable distribution of national income and wealth, as well as transparency in the exploitation of Africa's resources. In this regard, the negative impact of external and internal interests in the exploitation of Africa's resources and corruption, which continue to fuel conflicts on the continent, should be addressed in a more cohesive and effective manner;

m) Promote greater burden-sharing in addressing refugee problems in Africa and, especially, reduce its negative impact on the environment and the economies of asylum countries;

n) Condemn genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Continent and undertake to cooperate with relevant institutions set up to prosecute the perpetrators. Similarly, we agree to take measures to prevent the occurrence of genocide on our Continent, and encourage ratification of the protocol on the establishment of African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the statute of the International Criminal Court.

Development

We agree to:

(a) Accelerate the implementation process of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

(b) Implement the Cairo Agenda for Re-Launching the economic and Social Development of Africa;

(c) Implement the Sirte Summit Declaration on the establishment of the African Union and other Decisions, including the establishment of a Pan-African Parliament;

(d) Initiate action in cooperation with other developing countries to establish an open, rule-based, accountable, predictable, just, equitable, comprehensive and development-oriented global system of economic relations that takes into account the special situation of African economies;

(e) Create stable and predictable economic environment that will allow for linkages between different economic sectors and dynamic local entrepreneurship, while establishing and reinforcing linkages between the formal and informal sectors;

(f) Design programmes for poverty eradication and the improvement of the living standards of African peoples;

(g) Support the appeals made by Tunisia to Heads of State and Government at Regional and International Fora for the creation of a World Solidarity Fund to combat poverty;

(h) Build and nurture African solidarity and unity of action, based on shared values, common development interests and goals for the benefit of Africa and its peoples. Such solidarity should be manifested in situations where African countries and peoples are subjected to external pressures and sanctions;

(i) Encourage and strengthen work ethics as well as create the necessary conditions to stop brain drain, particularly, through increased development of African human resources and the establishment of a register of African experts;

(j) Strengthen partnership between the State and the private sector and create the propitious environment for the development and expansion of our economies;

(l) Enhance relevant skills development through the optimal and efficient utilization of existing institutions and develop new centres of excellence, and where necessary draw on, inter alia, the diaspora to supplement existing capacities and facilitate technology and skills transfer;

(m) Implement reforms to enhance economic development;

(n) Ensure the enactment of appropriate national laws to extend equal opportunities with respect to health, education, employment and other civic rights to all citizens, especially women and the girl child;

(o) Mobilize financial resources, pursue the objective of the cancellation of Africa's debt and of improved market access for Africa's exports;

(p) Develop as a priority, the main sectors of the economy, at all levels, such as agriculture, energy, industry, trade, transport and communication and human resources;

(q) Give special emphasis to the empowerment of women to enable them actively and independently participate in activities aimed at promoting economic development;

(r) Develop programmes to improve the skills of Youths, so as to facilitate their employment and enhance their role in development;

(s) Promote sustainable environmental policies and sustained economic growth.

Cooperation

We agree to:

(a) Pursue with vigour, the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community;

(b) Implement the Cairo Agenda for Re-launching the Economic and Social Development of Africa;

(c) Implement the Sirte Declaration of 9-9-99;

(d) Elaborate a strategy for the dissemination and popularization of the decisions of the OAU/AEC and the RECs;

(e) Improve coordination at the level of the OAU to ensure accelerated integration at the regional levels and improved coordination among the RECs, and between the OAU/AEC and the RECs;

(f) Promote financial cooperation and integration of financial markets;

(g) Promote intra-African and international cooperation with a view to finding an effective solution to Africa's outstanding problems in the fields of debt, trade, investment and AIDS pandemic;

(h) Implement the outcome of various studies undertaken on the establishment of self-financing mechanisms for the RECs;

(i) Improve the modalities for undertaking regular review and the implementation of cooperation agreements, within Africa and between Africa and its development partners;

(j) Improve various trade related facilities, including transport, communication, border formalities, to ensure the free movement of persons and goods at all levels;

(k) Promote joint ventures between Member States and Regional Cooperation programmes;

(l) Take necessary measures to identify static and dynamic comparative advantage, through joint harmonization of regional policy framework, as the basis for the expansion of the production base in African countries and as a guide for cooperation between African countries in the areas of industry, trade, energy, transport, communication and human resources;

(m) Strengthen Regional Economic Communities

(n) Promote South-South Cooperation and Cooperation between Africa and the Industrialized countries;

(o) Improve access to information and communication technologies;

(p) Forge close cooperation with a view to addressing problems related to natural disasters through the establishment of appropriate institutions and promotion of capacity building.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

15. In order to implement the CSSDCA within the framework of our Organization and ensure the sustainability of the process, we agree to:

a) Establish a Standing Conference which should meet every two years during our Summit. Provision should be made for African Parliamentarians to make their contributions to the Conference through the Pan-African Parliament, while representatives of the civil society may forward their views and recommendations to the Standing Conference through the OAU General Secretariat;

b) Convene of Review Meetings of Plenipotentiaries and Senior Officials of OAU Member States to monitor the implementation of the CSSDCA decisions, in-between Sessions of the Standing Conference. To this end, we request our Secretary General to work out the modalities and financial implications for realizing this objective;

c) Incorporate CSSDCA principles and guidelines in national institutions that would have responsibility for helping in the monitoring of the implementation of CSSDCA activities;

d) Request the Secretary General to initiate internal administrative arrangements for designating, within the OAU Secretariat, a Unit to coordinate CSSDCA activities;

e) Take necessary measures to ensure that detailed discussions are undertaken on the various Calabashes in order to implement the CSSDCA process. In this regard, the Secretary General is requested to coordinate the consultations with a

view to ensuring the convening of the meetings on the Calabashes;

f) Review the progress report of the Secretary General on the CSSDCA process during our next Extra-Ordinary Summit in Sirte, Libya in 2001 and the conclusions of the discussions on the various Calabashes at our Summit in 2002.

g) Review the agreements deriving from these meetings and discussions after considering the outcome of consultations to be undertaken by the Secretary General, during our Summit in Sirte, Libya, in 2001.

AHG/Decl.5 (XXXVI)

DECLARATION ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR AN OAU RESPONSE TO UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT

We, Heads of State and Governments of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo from 10 - 12 July, 2000 have undertaken a review of the Political Developments on the Continent and in particular the state of consolidating democracy in Africa.

We express our grave concern about the resurgence of coup d'etat in Africa. We recognize that these developments are a threat to peace and security of the Continent and they constitute a very disturbing trend and serious set back to the on-going process of democratization in the Continent.

We recognize that the phenomenon of coup d'etat has resulted in flagrant violations of the basic principles of our Continental Organization and of the United Nations. The phenomenon also contradicts and contravenes the position taken by our Organization in Harare in 1997 following the coup d'etat in Sierra Leone, in which we unequivocally condemned and rejected any unconstitutional change of government. We reaffirm that coups are sad and unacceptable developments in our Continent, coming at a time when our people have committed themselves to respect of the rule of law based on peoples will expressed through the ballot and not the bullet.

We recall our Decision AHG/Dec.141 (XXXV), adopted during the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly, in which we unanimously rejected any unconstitutional change as an unacceptable and anachronistic act, which is in contradiction of our commitment to promote democratic principles and conditions.

We recall further the mandate by the Seventieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Algiers, in July 1997, to the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to reactivate, as a matter of urgency, the sub-committee on unconstitutional change, in order to finalize its work in the light of the Harare discussions particularly, as regards the measures to apply in coup d'etat situations occurring in Member States.

We reaffirm the provisions of the OAU Charter and the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

We recognize that the principles of good governance, transparency and human rights are essential elements for building representative and stable governments and can contribute to conflict prevention.

Having reviewed the state of democracy in the Continent, and bearing in mind all our previous Decisions on this issue, as well as our strong determination to put an end to this unacceptable development.

We have agreed on the following elements of a Framework for an OAU response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government:

a) a set of common values and principles for democratic governance;

b) a definition of what constitutes an unconstitutional change; and

c) measures and actions that the OAU would progressively take to respond to an Unconstitutional Change of Government; and

d) an implementation Mechanism.

We are of the view that there is need to provide a solid underpinning to the OAU's agenda of promoting democracy and democratic institutions in Africa. Beyond invoking relevant Declarations issued by various sessions of our Assembly and the Council of Ministers, consideration could be given to the elaboration of a set of principles on democratic governance to be adhered to by all Member States of the OAU. These principles are not new; they are, as a matter of fact, contained in various documents adopted by our Organization. What is required here is to enumerate them in a coherent manner which will bear witness to our adherence to a common concept of democracy and will lay down the guiding principles for the qualification of a given situation as constituting an unconstitutional change. In this regard, and without being exhaustive, we have also agreed on the following principles as a basis for the articulation of common values and principles for democratic governance in our countries:

i) adoption of a democratic Constitution: its preparation, content and method of revision should be in conformity with generally acceptable principles of democracy;

ii) respect for the Constitution and adherence to the provisions of the law and other legislative enactments

iii) separation of powers and independence of the judiciary;

iv) promotion of political pluralism or any other form of participatory democracy and the role of the African civil society, including enhancing and ensuring gender balance in the political process;

v) the principle of democratic change and recognition of a role for the opposition;

vi) organization of free and regular elections, in conformity with existing texts;

vii) guarantee of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, including guaranteeing access to the media for all political stake holders;

viii) constitutional recognition of fundamental rights and freedoms in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981;

ix) guarantee and promotion of human rights.

We believe that the strict adherence to these principles and the strengthening of democratic institutions will considerably reduce the risks of unconstitutional change on our Continent. Indeed, experience has shown that unconstitutional changes are sometimes the culmination of a political and institutional crisis linked to non-adherence to the above common values and democratic principles. Our Organization should therefore support all efforts aimed at promoting adherence to these principles.

In order to give practical effect to the principles we have enunciated, we have agreed on the following definition of situations that could be considered as situations of unconstitutional change of government:

i) military coup d'etat against a democratically elected Government;

ii) intervention by mercenaries to replace a democratically elected Government;

iii) replacement of democratically elected Governments by armed dissident groups and rebel movements;

iv) the refusal by an incumbent government to relinquish power to the winning party after free, fair and regular elections.

We have also decided that:

Whenever an unconstitutional change as provided for in the definition of unconstitutional change above, takes place in a Member States, our Current Chairman of the OAU and our Secretary-General, on behalf of our Organization, should immediately and publicly condemn such a change and urge for the speedy return to constitutional order. The Current Chairman and the Secretary-General should also convey a clear and unequivocal warning to the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change that, under no circumstances, will their illegal action be tolerated or recognized by the OAU. In that regard, the Current Chairman and the Secretary-General should urge for consistency of action at the bilateral, inter-state, sub-regional and international levels. The Central Organ should thereafter convene, as a matter of urgency, to discuss the matter.

At the request of its Chairman, the Secretary-General or any OAU Member State, the Central Organ may be convened to consider any given situation that could be considered as constituting an unconstitutional change.

Following the initial response of condemning the unconstitutional change by the Central Organ:

(a) A period of up to six months should be given to the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change to restore constitutional order. During the six month period, the government concerned should be suspended from participating in the Policy Organs of the OAU. Apart from the sanctions provided for under Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations, the governments concerned should not participate in meetings of the Central Organ and Sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Its exclusion from participating in the OAU Policy Organs should not affect the country's membership in the OAU and therefore will not preclude it from honouring its basic obligations towards the Organization including financial contributions to the OAU regular budget;

(b) The Secretary-General should, during this period gather facts relevant to the unconstitutional change of Government and establish appropriate contacts with the perpetrators with a view to ascertaining their intentions regarding the restoration of constitutional order in the country; the Secretary-General

should seek the contribution of African leaders and personalities in the form of discreet moral pressure on the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change in order to get them to cooperate with the OAU and facilitate the restoration of constitutional order in the Member State concerned; the Secretary-General should speedily enlist the collaboration of the Regional Grouping to which the "country in crisis" belongs.

At the expiration of the six months suspension period, a range of limited and targeted sanctions against the regime that stubbornly refuses to restore constitutional order should be instituted, in addition to the suspension from participation in the OAU Policy Organs. This could include visa denials for the perpetrators of an unconstitutional change, restrictions of government-to-government contacts, trade restrictions, etc. In implementing a sanctions regime, the OAU should enlist the cooperation of Member States, Regional Groupings and the wider International/Donor Communities. Careful attention should be exercised to ensure that the ordinary citizens of the concerned country do not suffer disproportionately on account of the enforcement of sanctions.

In order to give effect to these measures, we have decided that existing OAU mechanisms, particularly the Central Organ, at all its three levels, will be the instrument for implementing this Framework for an OAU response to unconstitutional changes in Africa. In this regard, we request our Secretary-General to explore how best to enhance the capacity of that Policy Organ to enable it implement in an effective and credible manner, the principles contained in the Framework.

We have agreed on the establishment of a Central Organ sanctions sub-committee of 5 members chosen on the basis of regional representation. The sub-committee will regularly monitor compliance with Decisions taken on situations of unconstitutional changes and recommend appropriate review measures to the Policy Organs of the OAU.

AHG/St.1 (XXXVI)

STATEMENT ON ZIMBABWE

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo, from 10 – 12 July, 2000, received a report on a Bill recently adopted by the Senate of the United States of America, titled "Zimbabwe Democracy Act" 2000,

The **Bill**, inter-alia, prohibits assistance or debt relief from being extended by the USA to Zimbabwe. It also opposes any assistance to Zimbabwe by international financial institutions where the USA is a member. Furthermore, it prescribes the reform of land ownership Zimbabwe should adopt. It authorizes the USA President to support opponents of the Government of Zimbabwe **including financing propaganda activities** targeting Zimbabwe,

We, the Heads of Statement and Government of the Organization of African Unity are dismayed by this report which amounts to interference in the internal affairs of a Member State by a foreign power. We direct the OAU Secretariat and our Ambassadors in Washington to make representations to the American Congress with the objective of dissuading the legislators from proceeding with passing this bill into law.

AHG/St.2 (XXXVI)

STATEMENT ON NIGER

The **Assembly noted with satisfaction** the Agreements with the various fronts which had carried out rebellion in Niger. Those Agreements were concluded thanks to an internal dialogue and the support of the mediating countries inside and outside Africa. As those Agreements enabled the restoration of peace and stability in the country, Niger is preparing to organize on 25 September, 2000 a symbolic ceremony called the "Flame of Peace", a ceremony during which the arms which were used for the rebellion will be publicly burnt thus marking the definitive restoration of peace and sealing national reconciliation.

AHG/St.3 (XXXVI)

STATEMENT ON THE TRIPARTITE TALKS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN WASHINGTON ON THE PALESTINIAN ISRAELI PEACE PROCESS

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Lome, Togo from 10 – 12 July, 2000 have taken note of the important tripartite meeting currently being held in the United States, to put the Middle East peace process back on track,

We welcome the participation of Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Barak in these direct talks and hope that their efforts will create the environment for success;

In this connection, we the Heads of State and Government express the hope that the talks will lead to a comprehensive Agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis covering all pending issues in particular, Jerusalem and the refugees,

We therefore call upon the three leaders to spare no effort in bringing the talks to a successful conclusion and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and the realization of the right to self-determination by the Palestinians and the establishment of their own state in Palestine,

We wish to also express our gratitude to President Bill Clinton in particular, for his abiding interest in these talks and for showing courage and leadership at this critical junction in the Middle East peace process.

Lome, Togo
11 July, 2000

AHG/Dec.143 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and Recommendation of the 72nd Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

2. **COMMENDS** the excellent work accomplished, within a short time, by the Council of Ministers assisted by Experts and Parliamentarians;

3. **APPROVES** and **ADOPTS** the Draft Constitutive Act on the establishment of the African Union;

4. **URGES** all Member States to take the necessary measures to sign and ratify it as soon as possible in order to ensure its speedy implementation;

5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of Parliamentarians to examine the Draft Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament and submit it for approval by the next sessions of the Council of Ministers and subsequent adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

AHG/Dec.144 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities signed in Algiers on 18 June, 2000 by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea;

2. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Outgoing Chairman of the OAU and the OAU Secretary-General for the sustained efforts they made to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the UN, the European Union, the United States of America and other members of the International Community for the support they continue to give to the efforts of the OAU;

4. **ENCOURAGES** the two Parties to pursue the negotiations, under the auspices of the OAU, in order to reach a lasting and definitive peace;

5. **REQUESTS** the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures for the speedy deployment of the Peace-keeping Mission provided for in the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities;

6. **REQUESTS** Member States to continue to give their support and assistance to the efforts of the OAU, particularly to enable it assume its responsibilities in the implementation of the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities;

7. **EXPRESSLY REQUESTS** President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to kindly pursue his action with a view to reaching a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict between the two brotherly countries.

AHG/Dec.145 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Assembly:

1. **REITERATES** its support for the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which constitutes the only negotiated and accepted framework by all the Parties for the solution to the crisis in the DRC;

2. **URGES** the Parties to strictly implement the Agreement in all its aspects;

3. **COMMENDS** Sir. Ketumile Masire, Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the Joint Military Commission (JMC) for the efforts made for the implementation of Lusaka Agreement;

4. **REQUESTS** the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the other Congolese Parties to co-operate fully with the Facilitator so that the Inter-Congolese dialogue can begin as soon as possible;

5. **FURTHER URGES** the countries which have troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to begin withdrawing them in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;

6. **ALSO URGES** the United Nations to complete, as soon as possible, the deployment of UN Observers in conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 1291 of 24 April 2000 and to take the necessary measures for the deployment of the Peacekeeping Force in the DRC under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement;

7. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to President Frederick Chiluba, Chairman of the Regional Initiative for Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the outgoing OAU Chairman, the other African leaders and the OAU Secretary General for the untiring efforts made for the restoration of peace in the DRC;

8. **ENCOURAGES** President Frederick Chiluba, in consort with the Current Chairman, the OAU Secretary General and the other Heads of State to pursue his efforts for the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

9. **FINALLY URGES** the International Community to continue to support the peace process in the DRC and to support the efforts of the Facilitator and the JMC.

AHG/Dec.146 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON SOMALIA

The Assembly:

1. **REITERATES** its commitment to the Unity and territorial integrity of Somalia;

2. **CONGRATULATES** the President of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh and **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** his initiative aimed at restoring the State and the Somali institutions and promote a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in this country torn by protracted years of civil war;

3. **FURTHER SUPPORTS** the Somali National Conference for Peace meeting in Arta, Djibouti and the Somali institutions that will emanate from this Conference;

4. **REQUESTS** the International Community to give political, financial and logistic support to ensure the success of the Somali National Conference for Peace and the implementation of decisions from this Conference.

AHG/Dec.147 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON SIERRA LEONE

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Alpha Omar Konare, and the other leaders of the region, for the efforts they have deployed to bring peace to Sierra Leone; and **EXPRESSES SUPPORT** for their efforts to establish a ceasefire and revive the peace process in Sierra Leone, based on the Lome Peace Agreement;

2. **CALLS ON** the RUF in particular, to scrupulously abide by and implement the terms of the Peace Agreement, including disarming and demobilizing voluntary and desisting from making attacks on UNAMSIL as well as from acts of hostage-taking:

3. **CALLS FOR** the immediate and unconditional lifting of the siege of UNSAMSIL peacekeepers at Kailalun by RUF, and restoring to them, complete freedom of movement; **RECALLS** that restrictions on freedom of movement of UNAMSIL peacekeepers is a violation of the Lome Accord, the Bamako Summit Communiqué and UN Security Council Resolutions on Sierra Leone. It also recalls the mandate given by the ECOWAS Summit to President Charles Taylor of Liberia in this regard and **URGES** him to facilitate the early lifting of the siege on UN personnel. The Conference stresses that the RUF will be entirely responsible for any consequences that may follow, in case the matter is not resolved immediately;

4. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** and gratitude to Colonel Muamar Al Gaddafi, Leader of the Great Alfateh Revolution for his assistance in securing the release of the hostages and for his effort to settle the conflict and to achieve and sustain peace in Sierra Leone;

5. **EXPRESSES SUPPORT** for the decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State that troops be provided from the sub-region to strengthen UNAMSIL and **SUPPORTS** the call by ECOWAS to the United Nations Security Council to change the mandate of UNAMSIL from peacekeeping to enforcement, to increase the umber of UNSAMSIL personnel deployed and to provide adequate logistical support to enable UNAMSIL effectively carry out its mandate:

6. **WELCOMES** the decision of ECOWAS to conduct a regional enquiry into the illegal trade in diamonds originating from Sierra Leone; and **EXPRESSES SUPPORT** for the ban by the UN on the illegal trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone.

AHG/Dec. 148 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON ANGOLA

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** at the fact that the UN sanctions against UNITA are not implemented effectively;

2. **WELCOMES** the recent measures taken by some Member States towards ensuring the implementation of the UN sanctions against UNITA;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its strong support for all the Resolutions and efforts of the United Nations Security Council on Angola;

4. **REQUESTS** all Member States to scrupulously comply with all the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions and in this regard, to fully co-operate with the UN, to ensure their effective implementation;

5. **CONDEMNS** UNITA for continuing to wage war against the people of Angola, which war has been responsible for the humanitarian tragedy in that country and **EXPRESSES** its solidarity with the Government and People of Angola;

6. **APPEALS** to Member States in a position to do so and to the wider International Community to extend maximum assistance to the Government of Angola to enable it address the humanitarian and socio-economic problems that have resulted from the conflict in that country.

AHG/Dec.149 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE COMOROS

The Assembly:

1. **REITERATES** its commitment to the Unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;

2. **APPROVES** the proposals of the Council of Ministers upon recommendation of the countries of the Region and of the Troika of the Central Organ aimed at putting an end to the Separatist crisis in Anjouan, particularly the military measures whose modalities will be determined by the countries of the Region and the Troika of the Central Organ;

3. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** to the efforts of the countries of the Region and the Troika of the Central Organ in order to promote the restoration of the Constitutional Order in the Comoros and **APPROVES** the proposals made by the Council of Ministers in this regard.

AHG/Dec.150 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA - CM/2166 (LXXII)

The Assembly:

A.1. **COMMENDS** the Central Organ and its Sub-Committee on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa for their work, and the Secretary General for the efforts deployed to implement the Algiers Decisions;

2. **DECIDES** to restrict the definition of unconstitutional changes of government to paragraphs ((b) i to iv)) of the "Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government" (Doc. Rev.1 of the Central Organ);

3. **WELCOMES** the restoration of democratic governance in Niger and Guinea Bissau by their transitional authorities, in compliance with the decision of the Algiers Summit on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and **STRONGLY APPEALS** to the International Community, particularly the International Financial Institutions, to lend concrete support for the Post-Conflict reconstruction of both countries so that their peoples can begin to enjoy the dividends of peace and the fruits of democracy;

4. **ADOPTS** the proposed Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government:

B.1. **RECALLS** Decision AHG/Dec.141 (XXXV) adopted during the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly rejecting any unconstitutional changes of Government in Africa;

2. **REITERATES** its condemnation of all types of unconstitutional change of Government as anachronistic and in contradiction of its commitment to the promotion of democratic principles and constitutional rule;

3. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations during the Millennium Summit to join in the rejection of all types of unconstitutional changes anywhere in the world, and to take appropriate measures against their perpetrators.

AHG/Dec.151 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM CM/2169 (LXXII)

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the commencement of the trial of the two Libyan suspects and **REQUESTS** that all the necessary conditions be provided to ensure that the trial is fair, neutral, and transparent;

2. **REQUESTS** the Security Council to take a decision as soon as possible for a final and total lifting of sanctions imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and **CONSIDERS** as unacceptable any delay or impediment to this process, or any request contrary to international law, such as request for damages prior to the verdict of the Scottish Tribunal on this matter;

3. **REAFFIRMS** the right of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to compensation for the damages caused by the imposition of sanctions;

4. **COMMENDS** the Outgoing Chairman of the OAU for his endeavours in approaching the President of the UN Security Council as well as the UN Secretary-General regarding the immediate and definitive lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

5. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the normalization of diplomatic relations and economic cooperation between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and a number of Western countries and **ENCOURAGES** other countries to follow suit;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to follow-up on the implementation of this decision and to submit a report thereon to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

AHG/Dec.152 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON COTE D'IVOIRE

The Assembly:

1. **DECIDES** to establish a Committee composed of ten (10) Heads of State to proceed quickly to Abidjan with the mission of finding, together with all the political leaders, a political compromise likely to ensure a peaceful transition in the Unity and Stability of Cote d'Ivoire;

2. **MANDATES** President Eyadema to:

   - **inform** the Ivorian authorities of this decision;

   - **convene immediately** this Committee composed of: Togo, Nigeria, Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Algeria, South Africa, Djibouti and Senegal.

AHG/Dec.153 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction of the 13th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and **COMMENDS** the Commission for the quality of work accomplished during the period under review;

2. **URGES** the African Commission to continue to exercise its mandate of promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights, and to strengthen cooperation with organizations dealing with human rights issues, as well as with other relevant partners;

3. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to honour their commitments under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and to extend to the African Commission all the assistance and cooperation necessary for the accomplishment of its mission.

4. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the 13th Annual Activity Report in conformity with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

AHG/Dec.154 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE HOLDING OF AN AFRICAN SUMMIT ON HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the nexus between HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, other infectious diseases and Malaria;

2. **ENDORSES** the proposal to hold an African Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in the year 2001 and **ACCEPTS** the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the Summit;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to undertake necessary consultations with UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, other relevant international organizations and the government of Nigeria, to ensure the success of the Summit. This conference should be preceded by a meeting of Experts.

AHG/Dec.155 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF AFRICAN SUMMIT ON ROLL-BACK MALARIA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** and **WELCOMES** the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll-Back-Malaria endorsed by the Extra-Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and government which met from 24-25 April 2000 in Abuja, Nigeria;

3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to implement the Abuja Plan of Action at National level and more specifically, at community level;

4. **ENDORSES** the proposal of declaring **April 25 each year** as **"Africa Malaria Control Day"** and **CALLS UPON** the United Nations to declare the coming decade 2001 – 2010, a decade for Roll-Back-Malaria;

5. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to follow-up and report annually to the summit on the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll-Back-Malaria.

AHG/Dec.156 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON PROPOSAL FOR ERADICATION OF TSETSE FLIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT (CM/2152 (LXXII) ADD.2

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report presented by the Government of Uganda, and **COMMENDS** the efforts undertaken to highlight the problems caused by tsetse flies in Africa;

2. **COMMENDS** those African countries that have initiated the application of Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) for their pioneering effort;

3. **RECOGNIZES** the seriousness of the problem as one of Africa's greatest constraints to socio-economic development severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the Continent;

4. **URGES** Member States to act collectively to rise to the challenge of eliminating the problem through concerted efforts in mobilizing the necessary human, financial and material resources required to render Africa tsetse-free within the shortest time possible;

5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the trans-boundary nature of the problem, **WELCOMES** the establishment of the Pan-African SIT Forum as a mechanism through which sustainable area-wide tsetse eradication can be achieved and **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to provide support to the Pan African SIT FORUM;

6. **DECLARES** the year 2001 as the year of the control of tsetse fly, to mark the beginning of renewed efforts in the campaign for the eradication of tsetse flies in Africa;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to undertake all necessary consultations with a view to initiating the campaign from all possible partners and seek their support and cooperation in the implementation of the Pan-African Tsetse Eradication Campaign. The Secretary-General should submit an annual Progress Report to the OAU Summit, through the Current Chairman.

AHG/Dec.157 (XXXVI)

DECISION PROCLAIMING 25 MAY A WORK-FREE DAY IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of our Assembly, from 10 – 12 July, 2000 in Lome, Togo,

1. **DECLARE** 25 May as work-free day throughout the territories of Member States of the Organization of African Unity. On this occasion, appropriate activities will be organized to bring African peoples closer together, reaffirm their faith in the integration and popularize the ideals of union in the Continent;

2. **INVITE** Member States to take all necessary legislative and regulatory measures for the implementation of this decision.

AHG/Dec.158 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON AFRICA AND THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the invitation extended to African Heads of State and Government by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate in the Millennium Summit that is scheduled to take place in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, and of the Millennium Report presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. **URGES** African Heads of State and Government to fully participate in the deliberations of this important Summit, which will be co-chaired by Namibia on behalf of the developing countries, and Finland on behalf of the developed countries, in order to present the African vision, and to contribute to the shaping of the role of the United Nations in the 21st century in general and particularly in Africa.

AHG/Dec.159 (XXXVI)

DECISION ON CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that the Chagos Archipelago was unilaterally and illegally excised by the colonial power from Mauritius prior to its independence in violation of UN Resolution 1514;

2. **NOTES WITH DISMAY** that the bilateral talks between Mauritius and UK on this matter has not yielded any significant progress;

3. **URGES** the UK Government to immediately enter into direct and constructive dialogue with Mauritius so as to enable the early return of the sovereignty of Mauritius.

AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (IV)

DECISION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, especially Articles 7,8,9 and 10 thereof,

Considering Further the Protocol on the Relations between the African Economic Communities and the Regional Economic Communities,

Having Considered the Report of the Council of Minister,

DECIDES:

1. **REGULATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

   Regulation CM/AEC/Regl.1 (VI) and CM/OAU/AEC/Regl.1 (VII) of the Council of Ministers are hereby approved.

2. **RATIFICATION OF AEC TREATY**

   Member States which have not yet done so are urged to ratify the AEC Treaty or accede to it as early as possible.

3. FIRST AFRICA-EUROPE SUMMIT

a) Special commendations are extended to President Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA of Algeria and President Hosny Mubarak of Egypt for the tireless efforts they have deployed to ensure the convening and success of this Summit;

b) Gratitude is expressed to the OAU Preparatory Committee and its Core for their initiatives in preserving the solidarity and unity of the OAU during negotiations with the European side;

c) Member States are invited to give necessary priority to implementation of the "Cairo Plan of Action" adopted by the Summit;

d) Member States and the General Secretariat are invited to map out, in co-operation with the RECs, an Implementation Programme for the priority issues contained in the Cairo Plan of Action and report regularly thereon to Council;

4. AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

a) Creditors and the International Community are requested to take urgent measures to:

i) Relax the modalities of the initiative in favour of heavily indebted poor countries and extend it to all African countries as a step towards the cancellation of the continent's external debt;

ii) Cancel all outstanding arrears in respect of debt incurred before the new millennium.

b) The General Secretariat is requested to set up a group of Experts to assist the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt in:

i) formulating specific measures aimed at resolving the Africa's external debt problem;

ii) mapping out a common African position for the 2001 event on development financing;

iii) formulating concrete proposals on the reform of the international monetary system.

c) The OAU Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters should take the necessary measures to ensure that adequate funds are earmarked to this effect;

d) Special commendations are extended to the NGOs for resolutely supporting the just cause of Africa for debt cancellation as a way to help the continent relieve itself of the debt burden.

5. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

a) Note is taken of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation;

b) Decision Relating to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration concerning the Liberation of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa and contained in document CM/2178 (LXXII) is endorsed;

c) Member States are urged to:

i) Adopt measures for speedy implementation of the Decision;

ii) Enhance co-operation among them with a view to facilitating development of the air transport industry, particularly air safety in Africa;

d) the Monitoring Body is requested to provide Member States with the necessary support in the implementation of the Decision.

6. THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON LDCs

a) Mandate is given to the Chairman of the third UN conference on the LDCs to contact the G8 Countries. In order to secure their support for the conference;

b) The General Secretariat is requested to organize in co-operation with the RECs and relevant UN Agencies, a meeting of all Member States, in order to adopt a co-ordinated African position in preparation for the third UN conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Done in Lome, Togo on 12 July, 2000

Gnassingbe EYADEMA
President of the Republic of Togo
Chairman of the Assembly